WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Molestation by GRP Jawans

†*444. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item which appeared in the Hindi daily, "Dainik Jagaran" dated the 4th August, 2000 under the caption "GRP Jawanon ne toilet mein yuvti se dushkaram ke bad premi-yugal ko train se phainka"; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto and the action taken against the accused GRP jawans and to protect the victims of the incident who are struggling between life and death in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, "Police' (including Railway and Village police), is a state subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on the running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). Therefore, the report in this case was asked for from the GRP, Haryana.

The Government Railway Police, Haryana, has reported that no such incident of misbehaviour by GRP personnel had taken place and the couple actually jumped off the train to avoid being caught travelling without ticket. Both the injured persons have been treated at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

However, for this unfortunate incident, Indian Railways have ordered for a separate departmental inquiry.

Threat to the elephants in Karnataka forests

*445. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVI- RONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether elephants in the forests of Karnataka are under the threat of losing their original habitat and many are migrating to new areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed not to denotify Kudremukh National Park where the elephants are taking shelter as their refuge?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The latest "State of Forest Report' published by the Forest Survey of India does not show any significant decline in the forest Cover in any of the districts providing habitat to elephants in Karnataka. The movement of elephants to new areas is sometimes an outcome of blockage of forest corridors along the traditional migratory routes of elephants.

(c) The population of elephants in Kudremukch National Park is insignificant there being only 3 elephants according to the census is 1997-98. In any case, the question of denotification of Kudremukh National Park does not arise in view of the fact that the final notification of National Park under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has not yet been issued.

Production of Transgenic Cotton

†*446. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an experiment production of transgenic cotton was carried out in various regions of the country;

(b) if so, the names of institutes which carried out such experiment and the regions where that land was located;

(c) whether agro-scientists had conducted any study about the post-experiment impacts; and

(d) if so, the names of these scientists and the details of their study report?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):

(a) to (d) Contained limited field experiments on transgenic cotton were carried out in various regions of the country. These experiments were not for production of transgenic cotton but were for evaluation of transgenic characters in cotton plants *i.e.* the effect of an introduced transgene that codes for a protein (Bt protein), produced by Bacillus thuringiensis, a bacterium commonly

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.